

Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island

KENT ISLAND DAYS

ATTENTION! Heritage Society Members

HELP WANTED!

Plans are now under way. Mark the date on your calendar!

Saturday, May 16, 1998

9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Historic Downtown Stevensville, MD

Parade! Children's Party! Music!
Crafts! Flea Market! Hot Dogs!
Hamburgers! Strawberries & Ice Cream!
Games! Bake Table! "The Little Trains"!

If you can help, call a member of the Kent Island Days Committee: Eva Thompson (643-5368), Jane McCullough (643-3977), Barbara Nash (643-5196), or Emma Thomas (643-5584). For Bake Table donations, call Myrtle Bruscup (643-5596).

For a Patron Ad in the Kent Island Days book, please send \$10 to Kent Island Heritage Society, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666.



Dick & Eileen Dadds, Kent Island Days, 1996. This year KIHS will be headquartered in the Old Post Office, Stevensville, MD.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! COME TO THE MARCH 19th MEETING! YOU WILL MEET AN AUTHOR--TRISH SURLS FOR CERTAIN, AND MAYBE DOTTIE PHILLIPE!

THE HOUR IS 7 P.M.; PLACE, KENT ISLAND LIBRARY. PLEASE COME AND GREET THESE CHARMERS! THE "CLOUGH" CLAN HAS BEEN INVITED ENMASSE! WE MUST CELEBRATE THIS KENT ISLAND FAMILY.

The Heritage Society has received a very valuable addition to the genealogical files in the Library, a hard-bound copy of: p. 8

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Isle of Kent correspondence to Marilyn Wilderson, 419 Love Point Road, Stevensville, MD 21666

OFFICERS

President	Hugo Gemignani	643-1690
Vice-President	Nancy M. Cook	758-2502
Corresponding Secretary	Sandy Gemignani	643-1690
Recording Secretary	Donna A. Jones	827-7106 827-5797
Treasurer	Audrey Hawkins	643-5969

BOARD MEMBERS

William E. Denny III	1996-98	643-5869
Charles "Gil" Dunn	1997-99	643-5414
Jane McCullough	1996-98	643-3977
Barbara Nash	1998-00	643-5196
Gail B. Rumenap	1997-99	643-7301
Barbara Siegert	1997-99	827-7988
John F. Smigo	1997-99	643-4609 643-5851
Franklin Smith	1997-99	643-2258
Emma Thomas	1998-00	643-5584
Eva Thompson	1998-00	643-5368

COMMITTEES

Audit	Robin Jefferson	643-5164
Cray House & Train Depot: Hostesses, Events, and Tours	Audrey Hawkins	643-5969
	Eva Thompson	643-5368
Cray House Gardens: Island Garden Club	Ellen Klages	643-5687
Grants	Nancy M. Cook	758-2502
Kent Island Days		
Chair,	Eva Thompson	643-5368
	Jane McCullough	643-3977
	Barbara Nash	643-5196
	Emma Thomas	643-5584
Legal Advisor	Michael R. Foster	643-4000
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Membership	Mae Hutchison	643-5830
Newsletter	Marilyn Wilderson	643-7218
Program	Nancy M. Cook	758-2502
Publicity	Barbara Siegert	827-7988
Refreshments	Janet Denny	643-5869



President's Message

Dear friends of the Kent Island Heritage Society:

I am sorry to report we have encountered more trouble for the Cray House. Because of the severe damage to the foundation, the County has advised us to close the Cray House to the public until necessary repairs to the foundation are complete. I will comply with the County's request.

To date we have raised \$30,000. We need an additional \$50,000 to complete the needed foundation repairs. Included in this estimate is the very delicate process of jacking the house in the air, and perhaps moving it, in order to complete the foundation work.

In order to raise the needed funds for this project I am devoting every cent we raise for Cray House repairs. I am requesting all citizens of Queen Anne's County to PLEASE donate any amount you can to SAVE THE CRAY HOUSE. Every cent of your tax-deductible contribution will go towards the Cray House repairs.

*Sincerely,
Hugo G. Gemignani*

President, Kent Island Heritage Society

Kent Island Heritage Society President Hugo Gemignani is available for speaking engagements on the Chesapeake Bay and the Kent Island Heritage Society. Call him at (410) 643-1690 to make arrangements.

STEAMBOATS OUT OF LOVE POINT

Teresa W. Kilian

(from the short-lived Love Point Newsletter, Spring 1980)

One of the most colorful aspects of Kent Island's history is the steamboat service that used to run between Baltimore and Love Point. People could take a steamer from Pier 5 at the Light Street terminal and after a pleasant ride lasting about two hours and twenty minutes arrive at the dock where Langengelder's is now. There they could board a train bound for the Ocean City resorts, or they might choose to stay at the Love Point Hotel for a while.

Some of the graceful steamships that regularly made this run were the Maryland, the Westmoreland, and the Cambridge. One, the Emma Ford, was even renamed the Love Point. The one that is most remembered, however, is the last steamer to make this run, the Philadelphia.

In 1932, the Philadelphia began service between Baltimore and Love Point. It was owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Robert H. Burgess and H. Graham Wood, in Steamboats out of Baltimore (1968), paint a vivid picture: "The red, twin-stack ferry Philadelphia, which operated on that route, was a far cry from the picturesque white steamboats that preceded her, but she soon became quite well known around the Baltimore waterfront. Her coal-fired boilers sent forth a trail of heavy, black smoke, and she was affectionately known as 'Smokey Joe.'"

Mrs. Ethel Brown, my neighbor, remembers going on the steamship when she was a little girl. But most of her memories are of the ferryboat "Smokey Joe." It ran in almost any weather, but it sometimes had to stop in particularly bad winter ice.

"Smokey Joe" was used mostly for pleasure trips--one summer two boats ran because the Baltimore/Love Point service was so popular with tourists.

The "Smokey Joe" was also used by Love Point residents who wanted to

go to Baltimore on visits or do a little shopping. Mrs. Brown could see the boat coming from her house. When it got even with the Love Point lighthouse, it was time to leave home and start walking down the shady lane (Love Point Road) and across the wooden foot bridge (which used to cross the channel that connects the lake with the Chester River) and over to the ferry landing.

You could buy your ticket from Mr. Crouse Lewis, a Love Point resident who was the ticket agent for many years. You didn't have much time because "Smokey Joe" didn't stay at the dock very long--just long enough to load the freight in the bottom of the boat and the passengers on the top. Lots of freight was carried, Mrs. Brown remembers. It was loaded on trucks, or railroad cars--things like vegetables and produce.

Automobiles also rode on the bottom deck--about twenty-five or thirty cars could be carried, Mrs. Brown estimates. People made the trip on the upper part of the ship. They could either be out on deck or indoors. Food was served on board, but meals were a little on the expensive side. Segregation was the rule in those days, so black people sat on one side and white people on the other. Mrs. Brown remembers it as a "medium smooth" ride--never entirely smooth, but sometimes rougher depending on the weather. When "Smokey Joe" got to Baltimore, it was just a short walk to the street cars or about six blocks to the big department stores.

The residents of Love Point used to enjoy the ferry in another way besides riding on it--it was considered a lot of fun just to go down there and watch it come in--especially on Sunday evenings. Mrs. Brown said, "Just about everybody was down there." The boat would always skip the late run on Sunday nights in order to perform maintenance chores.

Mr. Ed Yealdhall remembers going on the ferry many times before it stopped running on August 31, 1947. There were four lanes for traffic and some very big trucks and

tractor-trailors would make the trip. Beer was served on board (prices were steep) and slot machines could be played once the boat was out on the water.

Mr. Yealdhall remembers seeing many pictures displayed on the vessel showing some of the daring rescue operations the ferryboat had been involved in. It was up to the Philadelphia to free many other boats from the ice in the bay in winter. Ice was no problem for that flat-bottomed, heavy ship. One time "Smokey Joe" even broke loose an icebreaker that was stuck in the ice.

Mr. Yealdhall has vivid memories of the ferryboat pulling in right on schedule each day so that the kids at Camp St. Martin's [1923 to early 1960s] on Love Point could use its arrival to time their swimming and other activities. He remembers the truck drivers shooting craps on board in order to pass the time as they took their loads of vegetables to the Baltimore markets. There was absolutely no traffic on the roads around here after the last ferry in the evening, says Mr. Yealdhall--the roads were just deserted.

I have not yet been able to locate any accurate timetable for the "Smokey Joe," but roughly the schedule was this. The ferry made three round trips from Baltimore to Love Point each day (two on Sunday). It left Baltimore about 6 or 7 in the morning and left Love Point at 9:20 A.M. This boat arrived in the city about noon and left Baltimore again about 3 P.M. The ferry arrived at Love Point about 5:20 P.M. and returned to Baltimore about 8 P.M. At 9 P.M. Love Point residents caught the last ferry to Love Point, arriving about midnight.

[For more reading on the steamboats on the Chesapeake, the following three books are available at the Kent Island Branch of the Queen Anne's County Library in Stevensville, in the Kent Island Heritage Society Collection:

Robert H. Burgess and H. Graham Wood, Steamboats out of Baltimore.

Alexander Crosby Brown, Steam Packets on the Chesapeake.

John H. K. Shannahan, Steamboat'n Days and the Hammond Lot.

Available from Tidewater Publishers: David C. Holly, Steamboat on the Chesapeake: "Emma Giles" and the Tolchester Line, about the Emma Giles, which steamed for more than forty-five years from Baltimore to the Eastern Shore.]

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

15 Years Ago

Isle of Kent, Spring 1983:

President Walter T. Denny honors Mildred Cook Schoch, whose death deprived the Heritage Society of its most active historian of Kent Island. Also reported was part 2 of the Archaeology Committee's report, Chair, Alexander D. Speer.

10 Years Ago

Isle of Kent, Spring 1988:

"Gil Dunn has already lined up the U.S. Naval Academy's crack Drum and Bugle Corps to lead the procession" [the Kent Island Days Parade on 22 May]. The newsletter also announces the placement of the new Stevensville Historic District signs.

5 Years Ago

Isle of Kent, Spring 1993:

Everyone anticipates the "renewal of the Heritage Society's colorful and popular event, the Kent Island Days Celebration Parade." The newsletter also announces the successful completion of the archaeological survey of Kent Island by Darrin Lowery.

Save the Cray House

The Cray House will be CLOSED to the public as of February 15, 1998, and will remain closed until restoration and preservation of the historic building are completed. The Kent Island Heritage Society is complying with a request made by the County Administrator and our architectural consultant.

The Cray House is one of the touring museums of the Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County, which is under the auspices of the Queen Anne's County Visitors' Center. The request stems from the badly deteriorated condition of the building's foundation. The second floor has been closed for several years at the recommendation of the safety inspector, and now the first floor is desperately in need of restoration.

A grant from the Maryland Historical Trust in the amount of \$20,000 has been received, but more than \$46,000 must be raised in order to complete just the first phase of a five-phase restoration project. Increased attendance at the Cray House by young people, as well as adults, is an indication of burgeoning community interest in the historical building.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS! In order to preserve this uniquely constructed building of the nineteenth century--one of only two in existence in Maryland--your donations would be greatly appreciated. Letters have been sent to community civic organizations and to philanthropic foundations within the state asking for their help as well.

This is one way in which we as members can support the aims of the Society, which are to "discover, identify, restore, and preserve the heritage of Kent Island"; to create and foster an awareness in the community and general public of the historic significance of Kent Island; and to promote the preservation of historic sites, homes, buildings, monuments, and markers.

Nancy M. Cook
Vice-President and
Grant Chairperson

Minutes

Donna Jones, Recording Secretary

GENERAL MEETING

June 19, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Kent Island library in Stevensville by Hugo Gemignani.

The president led the the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the March General Meeting were given by Donna Jones and accepted as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Hugo in the treasurer's absence and accepted as read with copies for review.

Eva Thompson announced that on the third Saturday of each month there will be activities in and around the Cray House. Planned at this time are: the Chester Homemakers in June, a Confederate Encampment in July, Janet and Ann Denny spinning in August, and a band in September.

Nancy Cook was absent, with no report.

Hugo then gave an update on the Kirwan Estate. The possibility of selling the farm with certain conditions was discussed with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy & Waterfowl Trust, who made a bid of \$1.2 million to buy it for the Society.

One condition of the sale would be that the Society would retain the house, gravesite, and 25 acres surrounding them. Another condition would be that Coppage have life interest, receiving farm lease money in escrow. It was noted that the Society has spent over \$100,000 in attorney's fees to date.

The Society filed an Escrow and Indemnification Petition under Special Exemptions for a tax reduction, saving \$45,000 in taxes but costing the Society \$21,000 in attorney's fees.

Hugo noted that the Society has cashed in half of its stocks to date for bills and has incurred a loss of over \$300,000, with no funds being received from the Kirwan Estate.

Hugo announced he sold 6 decoy prints at his Rotary Club meeting.

Rehabilitation of the Cray House will begin next Fall.

Guest speaker Bill Harris, with his wife, Sis, told about the history of oystering on Kent Island.

It was announced that Kent Island Night with author Nick Hoxter will be held at the Kent Island library on August 6 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING November 6, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Kent Island library in Stevensville by Hugo Gemignani.

The president noted we did not have a majority of directors present, thus no quorum.

Membership joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the June General Meeting were given by Donna Jones and accepted as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Audrey Hawkins and accepted as read.

The first topic of unfinished business was the Kirwan property. The Society received a letter of new demands from Robert Baynard, Power of Attorney for Walter Coppage. A special meeting was called by Hugo on Thursday, September 25, at the William Denny home to discuss further action.

Believing these new demands to be unacceptable to the Society, Hugo proposed returning the Kirwan house to the lifelong tenant. The final vote was: 5 for and 2 against.

A response was sent to Mr. Baynard's letter on October 8, stating that the Society would not comply and the occupants would be vacated by October 31.

Inquiries from the membership about our stocks prompted Hugo to review the issue of stocks bequeathed to the Society and their current status.

The second item of unfinished business was the Cray House. Hugo reviewed the repairs needed and the pending grant. The architectural plans required for the repairs have been estimated at \$20,000. A Plot plan may also have to be drawn, if a previous one is not found, estimated to cost \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Due to these estimated costs, Hugo is pressing the issue of grant funds being used for construction purposes alone and not to pay for costs incurred through the required plans. The Society is also pursuing other grants to aid in the restoration process.

New Business. A discussion ensued of the possibility of the Society having historical interest in the Good-hand House/property in Chester. After site observation and preliminary research, the Society concluded nothing of historical interest or value to us.

Gail, Christmas Dinner Committee, reviewed the plans and confirmed the date, December 13, Saturday.

Eva Thompson, Nominating Committee, announced the nominees for 1998. Officers: Hugo Gemignani, President; Nancy Cook, Vice President; Donna Jones, Recording Secretary; Sandy Gemignani, Corresponding Secretary; and Audrey Hawkins, Treasurer. Board members: Emma Thomas and Eva Thompson.

Without a quorum no vote was taken. Board members present: Hugo, Audrey, Gil, John, Gail, Donna, Eva, and Bill.

Hugo stated the future plans for the Society include a bandstand to be built on our property in Stevensville and a caboose for the train station.

Hugo announced 4 decoy prints had been sold, bringing the total to 15.

The scheduled guest speaker for the evening was canceled in hopes of a final vote on the Bylaws. No quorum; no vote was taken.

Framed and matted decoy prints were on display; two raffle baskets were also on display, to be given away at the Christmas Dinner. Chances are \$1 each or \$5 for 6.

Hugo announced Barbara Nash as a new Board member.

Janet Denny provided refreshments. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER/MEETING December 13, 1997

The Annual Christmas Dinner was held December 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Kent Island Yacht Club with good attendance.

After a welcome by the president, the new officers for 1998 were installed:

President	Hugo Gemignani
Vice-President	Nancy Cook
Recording Sec.	Donna Jones
Corresponding Sec.	Sandy Gemignani
Treasurer	Audrey Hawkins

After an enjoyable meal and in-

stallation ceremonies, a performance by the Canterbury Ringers set a festive yet relaxing mood.

Hugo unveiled an architectural sketch of the proposed bandstand to be constructed in Stevensville, with overwhelming approval.

The stage for 1998 has been set!

Treasurer's Report

YEAR 1997

Audrey Hawkins

Balance in checking account January 1, 1997	\$ 2,966.20
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Accounts Receivable

Membership dues	\$ 2,179.00	
Donations	66.00	
Bank Interest	279.85	
Sales Income	\$ 3,114.75	
Sales Tax	152.40	
Kent Island Day Income	\$ 3,545.16	
Kent Island Day Book	\$ 1,500.00	
Kirwan Stock Sold (October)	\$50,625.00	
Kirwan Stock dividends received	3,768.75	
Silent Auction at Christmas dinner	623.50	
Basket Raffle	663.00	
Dinner meeting Dec. 13th.	\$ 2,020.00	
Scholarship fund	75.00	
Miscellaneous	\$55,673.71	
 Total for accounts receivable year	 \$124,286.13	 \$124,286.13
	GRAND TOTAL	\$127,252.23

Disbursements

Purchases to sell	\$ 1,312.00	
Cray House/Train Depot electric & maintenance	67.13	
Postage & Mailing Expense	\$ 2,711.97	
Printing	\$ 1,002.22	
Dinner meeting (Dec.)	734.03	
Loan on lot next to train depot	\$ 1,587.31	
Sewerage (Cockey Lane)	\$ 3,739.27	
Old Post Office/Stevensville	390.50	
Kent Island Day Expenses	\$46,993.87	
Storage Expense	\$ 3,928.05	
Office Supplies	\$ 1,609.19	
Miscellaneous	318.86	
	\$32,866.74	
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	 \$97,261.14	 \$ 97,261.14
 BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 12/31/97		 \$ 29,991.19

from

p. 1

CLOUGH'S CHANCE:
REMEMBERING BYGONE
GENERATIONS
of the
CLOUGH/CLOW FAMILY
on the
EASTERN SHORE of
MARYLAND and DELAWARE

This volume was presented to us by Trish Surles, who co-authored the book with her sister, Dottie Phillipe. The title page also states: "With Special Assistance of Leila Clow Phillipe." It contains an interesting and remarkably complete history of the CLOW/CLOUGH family: from Nathaniel, who died in 1748, and Susan, who died before 1756, up to 1994. The book is fully indexed and contains photographs, coats of arms, family charts, anecdotes, and a complete list of sources. Many other Kent Island family names are also included. The book, containing over 380 pages, took ten years of research and was published by Gateway Press in 1994.

The Society is indeed grateful for this very generous gift.

OLD STEVENSVILLE POST OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS FOR KIHS

The Kent Island Heritage Society has acquired the Old Post Office in Historic Downtown Stevensville. Built in 1860, the building will house the office of the Society, records including archaeology reports, and a meeting room for KIHS Board meetings.

Future plans include complete painting, and restoring the front room as an authentic nineteenth-century post office.

If you would like more information on the Post Office, call Audrey Hawkins (643-5969). Watch for the Summer 1998 Isle of Kent--1631 for more on the Old Stevensville Post Office.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership dues are \$10 per person per year or
\$100 for a lifetime membership.

Name(s), address, telephone number & payment can be mailed
to **The Kent Island Heritage Society, Membership**
P.O. Box 321 • Stevensville, MD 21666

Isle of Kent - 1631

Spring 1998

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The Kent Island Heritage Society

P.O. Box 321
Stevensville, MD 21666

Address Change Requested

Bulk Rate Paid
Permit #11
Stevensville, Md.
21666

MARCH 19, 1998 MEETING

Kent Island Library
Stevensville, MD

7:00 P.M. - Refreshments

7:30 P.M. - Approval of BY-LAWS

PROGRAM - Author, Ms. Trish Surles

"Clough's Chance - Remembering
By-Gone Generations"

GENERAL MEETING DATES: MARCH 19, 1998 JUNE 18, 1998
SEPTEMBER 17, 1998